TOK Essay Outline

**Question:** “That which can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence.” (Christopher Hitchens). Do you agree?

**Introduction:** Introduce the question with the idea that depending on which area of knowledge you are talking about and what they are claiming, ideas can be created without real evidence other then what one person says but cannot be dismissed without evidence.

**First Paragraph:**

* In the first paragraph I would examine how in religion a point can be created without having to prove it such as in situations such as Moses claiming that he had received the ten commandments from God but could have just as been manufactured by himself.
* Maybe investigate into other religions that maybe host similar ideas that were made without conclusive proof but rather were accepted by people as the truth.
* Perhaps mention the fact that ideas cannot be dismissed without evidence and that since it is theoretically impossible to disprove religion because that would involve PROVING that there are no other dimensions (other than the three space and single time dimensions) in existence and that there is no being that created us.

**Second Paragraph:**

* Use possibly Mathematics or Physics to show that without logical proof or a whole range of values received from experimentation, you cannot claim an idea in the fields without showing that you idea works and works for a series of tests.
* This would be true of some of Newton's equations that he created have been tried and tested across the years and only until recently have we noticed that some don't work for subatomic particles but it does apply to other masses.
* As well in mathematics I could show that theorems are meant to be conclusive proof that an idea is true for all cases as long as the original parameters, such as right angle triangles for Pythagoras's theorem, remains the same and are the ones that in a series of equations has been shown to work.

**Conclusion:**

* Show that evidence is only needed in certain areas of knowledge and then it may not be conclusive proof but rather a certain amount of evidence that supports your theories. If a thesis statement is made at the start, maybe show if it still stands after evidence is given for both sides of the argument.

Edward Fitzgerald.